GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Vertical Mining
Ninama Shri Manshankar;Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether numerous incidents of landslide have taken place in the country due to vertical mining during the last five years and if so, the details thereof along with the casualties reported as a result thereof, if any, location-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government for the prevention of such accidents;

(c) whether any restrictions have been imposed on vertical mining and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are any international guidelines in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the policies of the Government are in concurrence with the said guidelines and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.357 REGARDING VERTICAL MINING ASKED BY SHRI BHARAT SINGH AND SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2017

(a): As per the information of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, there have been few landslides/ slope failures in mines in the country. The details of these occurrences along with reported casualties, in last five years, are as under:

Name & address of the mine Name of the owner Date/ Year of occurrence Cause of landslide/ slope failure Casualties
Bharatpur OCM, Angul, Odisha M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited 21.04.2013 55m high overburden dump side-casted by dragline against coal rib collapsed over a length of 150m causing fall of about 90,000 m3 rock mass inflicting fatal injury to surface miner operator and serious bodily injury to the supervisor. 1
Dhanpuri OCM, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited 01.07.2014 While recovering a submerged dumper from waterlogged opencast project, a portion of backfilled overburden measuring 54m (length) X 14 m (width) slided into the water, burying two(2) persons under the muck pile. 2
Khadia OCM, Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh M/s Northern Coalfields Limited 13.05.2015 Internal dragline overburden dump failed over a length of 130m resulting burying of 2 dozers, 1 excavator & 1 rope shovel. Nil
Amalgamated Konar Khasmahal Opencast mine [OCM], Bokaro, Jharkhand M/s Central Coalfields Limited 06.03.2016 Top over burden bench of 10m high for a length of 35m collapsed from a height of 28m due to local hidden slip of circular shape. Nil
Rajmahal OCM, Godda, Jharkhand M/s Eastern Coalfields Limited 29.12.2016 Contractual workers and machineries were deployed to form benches in dumped over burden, in-situ overburden and coal in an opencast mine containing known geological disturbances; cracks developed due to dead weight of dumped over burden, deep hole blasting and repeated plying of Heavy Earth Moving Machines [HEMMs], resulting into violent failure of in-situ over burden and coal benches, followed by instant sliding of dump in an area of 720m x 366m burying 23 workers along with 18 HEMMs. 23

(b): The measures taken for prevention of such accidents are:

â€¢ Primarily, the owner, agent, manager and other statutory persons appointed at the mine are required to comply with the provisions of the statute i.e. Mines Act, 1952 and the subordinate legislations made thereunder.
â€¢ The officers of DGMS oversee the status of compliance of the statute by regular inspection of the mines.
â€¢ To prevent re-occurrence of such accidents, DGMS issues technical circulars to the mining industry suggesting preventive measures to be taken.

(c): In order to ensure safety of the workers in the mines, adequate provisions have been made under the Mines Act, 1952, the

subordinate legislations and the orders made thereunder [available on the website of DGMS i.e. www.dgms.gov.in]. Regulation 106(1)(a) and 106(2)(a) of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 made under the Mines Act, 1952, has specific stipulations regarding the permissible height and width of the benches and slope of the sides in opencast working.

(d) & (e): The guidelines to avoid landslides/slope failure due to vertical mining are specific to the geo-technical parameters of the mine and the provisions of the Act and subordinate legislations are in consonance with the international practice.

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